









## SIR EDWARD BULWER LYTTON.

The following is from a London correspondent of the New York Times:

Last evening I had the honor of dining with Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, at his magnificent mansion, No. 1 Park Lane, Piccadilly. Of all the living authors of England, Sir Edward was the one I most wished to see. As a novelist, a poet, an orator, and a statesman—"take him for all in all"—where shall we find his peer? For the last thirty years the reading world has fed upon his thoughts, and an entire generation has been stimulated and educated by his glowing poetry and his fine philosophy. It was not as one of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State, who has charge of her "mighty colonies," that I desired to make the acquaintance of Bulwer, dropping all titles, this is the name by which the world knows him best, but as a poet of the finest fancy, and as an author of the richest and ripest productions of the age. The mere mention of his works is like running over the keys of a piano, awakening the most delightful reminiscences of the times and places in which they were originally read, and of the living acquaintances ever associated with his ideal characters. Let me see if I can recall them in the order of their appearance, without an overwhelming feeling of homesickness for the youth and romance left behind.

E. L. Bulwer was born a poet and a politician in the year 1805. At the age of fifteen he published the first of his poems in a little volume of verses entitled "Imaginal." Five years later came his noble "Prize Poem on Sculpture," then his "Weeds and Wild Flowers," a bouquet of fugitive poems privately printed in Paris. In 1827 he entered the House of Commons, and struck his true vein of authorship, and gave the world his brilliant maiden fiction, the rhetorical, skeptical, aspiring, and despairing Falkland. This was followed by "O'Neill; or, the Rebel." And in the midst of his mental and moral effervescence, Bulwer committed matrimony and retired from the army. In a lonely and lovely part of Oxfordshire, the somewhat subdued and disenchanted author gave himself up to study and meditation, throwing off annually, at least, a "three-volume" novel.

And all this labor has been accomplished in the midst of every possible temptation to idleness and luxury, under the depressing effects of physical debility; and more than all, of domestic infelicity! Sir Edward is wealthy, independent of his salary as Minister, and his income as author. The *Memoirs* of Bulwer pay him \$100,000 for the copyright of a cheap edition of his works for ten years. As the Lord of Knowlton Castle, with revenues equal to the most expensive taste; as a member of the British Cabinet, and a leader of Parliament; but, above all, as the best real romanticist and writer of the day, Sir Bulwer Lytton, at the age of fifty-four, has achieved a fame, a future, and a position unparalleled in the history of men of genius. In person, he is a little above the medium height, with a figure slight, almost to frailty. His head affords the most intellectual proof of the general veracity of physiognomy. It is a splendid dome of intellect, rising in the region of "ideality," and affording ample scope for all the superior faculties. There is nothing of the appearance or manner of the Englishman about him; but, on the contrary, he is entirely cosmopolitan, in look, dress, and tone of conversation. His hair, like his thin whiskers and moustache, is of a light brown color. He wears it cut close behind, and lifted up in front, giving his head a look of distinguished loftiness.

The dinner party, yesterday, consisted of fifteen persons, mostly noblemen and members of Parliament; the hour, 7 1/2 o'clock. There was no general talk at the table, each guest conversing *à la carte* with the gentleman on either side of him. The courses were numerous, and the vintages and the wines of the choicest qualities. The table was ornamented with silver pyramids of flowers; the service was of gold and silver; and the servants in small cloths, "white cravats, and powdered hair, looked like the *dramatis personae* in "School for Scandal." After dinner, the conversation became more general and animated, and the topics were usually of more or less public interest. Being the only American present, and the only one who had ever seen America, I had many questions to answer. I suppose I could not have given the great novelist any information that would have gratified him more, touching the transatlantic appreciation of his works, than the fact that his sweet and simple little song, "When stars are in the quiet skies, Then most I pine for thee," etc., is found on almost every pianoforte in America.

Sir Edward greatly regrets that he had not visited the United States in his "travelling days." He expressed, as did several others, the most profound sorrow at the death of Prescott, for whose works he entertains the highest admiration; asked affectionately after Washington Irving, and remarked that he did not think the Americans had yet done justice to Irving, adding—"he may have offended a portion of his countrymen by his politics or his manners; but what have these to do with an author's works; let them be judged by themselves."

The Lytton titles and estates will be inherited by Edward Robert, Bulwer's sole son and heir, whose matrimonial engagement to a Dutch lady is just announced. He is a young man of fine literary talents, and a poet of high order. His last production is just now receiving the universal commendation of the London critics. He left town a few days since, to resume the duties of his post as Secretary to the Embassy at Vienna.

## Contents of Magazines.

Bentley's Miscellany, for April: Books and Pictures; Dushwood's Drama; or, the Derby, and what Came of It; Of Old Maids, by Monkhood; The Last Witch Burning, by Walter Thornbury; The King's Head at Tamworth; Political Memoirs; M. Guizot and Lord John Russell; Recollections of Charles Strangé; Part 2, Sir Henry Sydney's Autobiography, by Pitt-Herbert; Notes for Gold; Breaking the Ice, by George Moore; Poems and Ballads of Goethe; The Reliques of St. Philomele; a Legend of Mugano; Magic and Mystery; Up among the Fjelds, Part 5; The History of Mr. Miranda, by Dudley Costello, Part 2, Mr. Benjamin Montefiore.

Colburn's New Monthly Magazine, for April: Mexico and the Mexicans; Pomeroy Abbey, by the author of "Ashley"; The Admirable Orcheston, by Sir Nathaniel; Corper at Ousey, by W. Charles Kent; Aunt Francis, by Mrs. Beahy; Louis XVI. and his Times; My Friend Pickles, and some Social Grievances of which he desires to complain, by Alexander Andrews; Fresh Arrivals from Paris; Romance—Baron—Leon Feugère; Hans Ernest Mitterknap; an Autobiography; Mill on Liberty; Beyond Vision, by E. F. Rowell; The War Pamphlets; Captain Clayton's Charles the Second; Literature of the Month.

The British Quarterly Review, for April: Cheap Literature; Allon's History of Europe; Physical Training; Eli's Manuscript; Bunson's Bible; The Pen and the Administration; Bartholomew Fair; Japan; Lady Morgan's Diary; The Reform Question; Our Epilogue on Affairs and Books.

The Atlantic Monthly, for May: The Gymnasium; Why did the Governor Paint? Two Years After; A Bundle of Old Letters; In the Place; The Last Bird; The Utah Expedition; Bulls and Bears; Inscription for an Almanac; A Trip to Cuba; The Professor at the Breakfast Table; The Minister's Wooing; The Walker of the Snow; Reviews and Literary Notices.

Norton's Literary Letter—No. 4: Humboldt in his Library; The duty of Owning Books, by H. W. Beecher, Illustrated; Mosaic Mosaic, Illustrated; Biography of the State of Maine, prepared by Hon. Wm. Willis; Catalogue of Valuable Biographical Works; Catalogue of Works Relative to America; Catalogue of Miscellaneous Works.

Harper's Monthly, for May: The Lamentable Complaint of Katharine Maria Pope, Illustrated.

Files, Illustrated; Loungings in the Footprints of the Pioneer, Illustrated; The Merchant; The Burning of Salome Villa; Mrs. Margaret's Hobby; Quarantine and Ventilation, by D. B. Reid, M.D.; In the Old Church Tower; The Bohemians; Lynch Law; Criticism Forestalled; or, Rhyme versus Reason; Such a Mistake; The Golden Elephant; The Virginians; by W. M. Thackeray, Illustrated; Monthly Record of Current Events; Literary Notices; Editor's Table; Editor's Easy Chair; Our Foreign Bureau; Editor's Drawer; Fashions for May, Illustrated.

—Mr. Kingslake, M.P., the well known author of *Rothen*, is, according to the *Manchester Guardian*, engaged upon his History of the War in the Crimea.

**The Hearsthouse Club.**  
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